



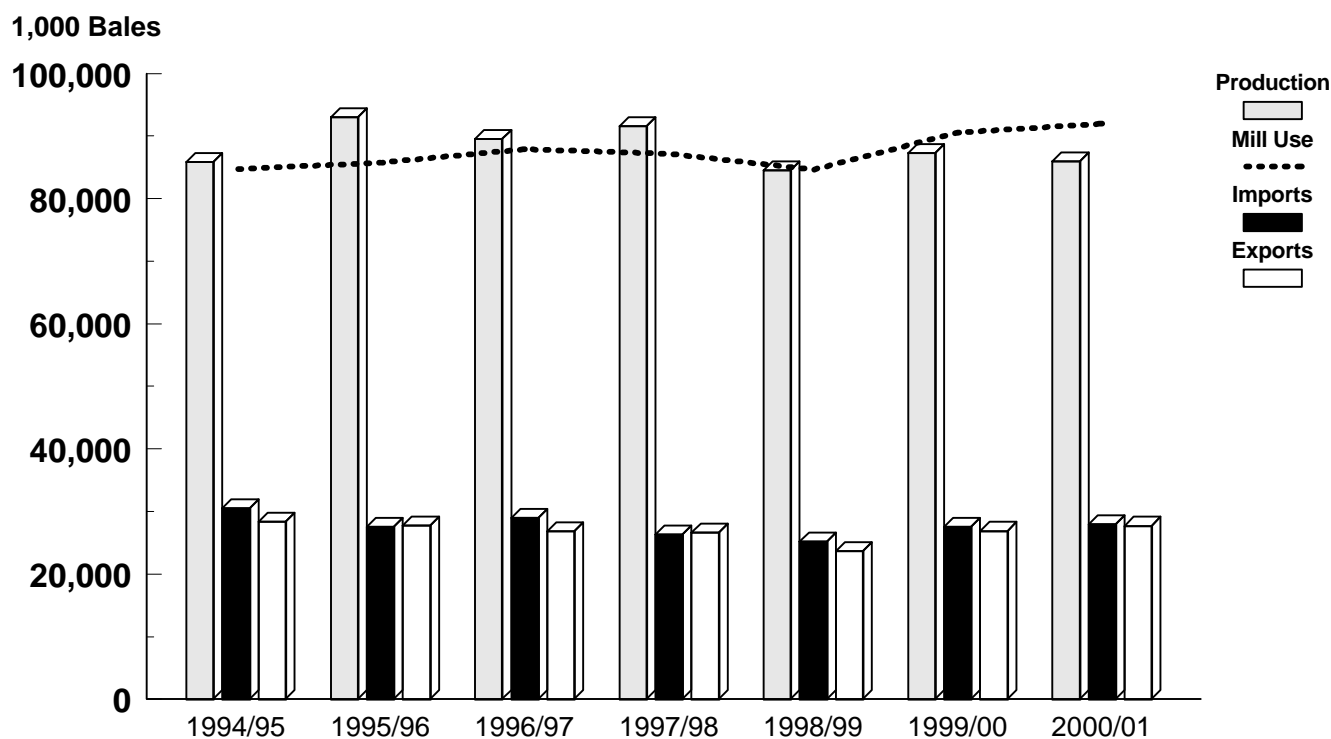
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Cotton: World Markets and Trade

2000/01 World Cotton Outlook Production, Demand and Trade



World cotton production for marketing year 2000/01 is forecast to decrease to 86.0 million bales (480-lb), 1.5-percent lower than USDA's current estimate for MY 1999/2000 of 87.3 million bales. A sizable decrease in total foreign production, down 3.3 million bales will more than offset an increase in U.S. production. World cotton consumption next year will show continued growth and reach 92.0 million bales, 1.7-percent higher than this year. Continued strong economic conditions throughout much of the world are expected to push mill use higher. Exports are expected to react to lower production and higher consumption levels and reach 27.7 million bales, an increase of 3.0 percent from this year's exports of 26.9 million bales.